Scheme for Weaker Sections in Assam

3155. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the welfare schemes for weaker sections of the society in the State of Assam started during the last three years including the current-year.

(b) the funds sanctioned and allocated by Government for these welfare schemes and achievement made in each scheme;

(c) whether the funds are adequate to meet the needs, and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) No new scheme has been started by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during the last three years for welfare of weaker sections. However, the details regarding amount sanctioned by the Ministry for various ongoing welfare scheme in Assam for the welfare of weaker sections (SCs/ STs/OBCs and Minorities) are given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 82].

(c) Yes,

(d) Does not arise

Child Welfare a Largely Neglected Area

3159. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item titled "Review of child welfare policies sought" appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated 7th February, 2000.

(b) whether it is a fact that since children do not form a vote bank, their welfare is largely neglected and even the juvenile justice system is not being properly implemented.

(c) whether all the authorities and the agencies including NGOs have since being consulted;

(d) if so, what is their reaction; and

(e) the steps taken to speed up the child welfare ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir. On the contrary, the Government has been very much concerned with the welfare of children, India is a signatory to the 27 survival and development goals laid down by the world summit on Children, 1990. In order to implement these goals, the Department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, who is the nodal department for all matters relating to 'children', formulated a national plan of Action for Children. Each of the concerned Central Ministries, State Government/UT Administrations and voluntry organisations delaing with children have been requested to take up appropriate measures to implement this Action plan. A Monitoring Committee to review the achievement of goals set in the National plan of Action has also been set up under the chairpersonship of Secretary (Department of Women and Child Development). This Committee meets regularly.

The juvenile justice System as envisaged in the Juvenile Justice Act 1986, is being implemented through the State Government/UT Administrations. The Government of India is giving grant-in-aid to them to the extent of 50% of the total cost for establishment and maintenance of Juvenile Homes, Observations Homes, Special Homes and After care Institutions. It is a fact that the implementation of the Juvenile Justice System has attracted adverse comments in certain forums. The Government has taken due notice of these comments and revised the erastwhile "scheme for Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social maladjustment" during the last year only. The revised Scheme titled "A Programme for Juvenile Justice" aims at providing integrated and broad based approach to attend to juvenile delinquency. It is expected that with the revision of the scheme, there will be improvement in the implementation of juvenile justice system.

(c) and (d) While revising the schemes of 'Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment, and 'Welfare of Street Children', the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment consulted all the concerned authorities formally while informal consultations were held with prominent voluntary organisations (NGOs) also and their views/suggestions were incorporated in the revised schemes wherever feasible. Department of Women and Child Development had set up an Advisory Committee to suggest measures for eradication of child prostitution. Prominent voluntary organisations (NGOs), working in the relevant field, are members of this Committee.

(e) According to the information furnsihed by Department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, who are concerned with this subject, the National policy on Children was formulated in 1974 and the provisions thereof are being implemented by the Government of India through its various schemes and programmes, for example, Integrated Child Development Service by the Department of Women and Child Development, District Primary Education programme by the Department of Education, Implementation of Juvenile Justice Act by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Reproductive Child Health by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare etc. The Department of Women and Child Development has also formulated National Plan of Action for Children in 1992 which contains the goals and objectives to be achieved by the year 2000. The Government has also acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 11th December 1992 and since then is looking after the implementation of the CRC in the country regularly. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is also implementing a scheme called "An Integrated Programme for Street Children" to prevent destitution of children and facilitate their withdrawal from the life on the streets. Under this programme, a project called 'childline', which is a 24 hour free telephone service for children in need, has been started. Any child or a concerned adult on his behalf can dial 1098 to access the service with the assurance that some one who cares is just a phone call away. The service is presently operational in eleven cities of the country and is expected to be avilable in 30 cities by the end of the year 2001. The Ministry has constituted childline India Foundation as the agency to develop and support the Childline services across the country. The Ministry is also examining the Juvenile justice Act 1986, with a view to bringing in qualitative improvement in the services provided in this Act and to bring it in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to which India is a signatory.

Assets of Various National Finance and Development Corporation

3160. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the assets/corpus/capital of the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation, the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation and the SC & ST Finance and Development Corporation respectively;